2008-04312/

metrovancouver

MEDIA RELEASE

4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC, Canada V5H 4G8 604-432-6200

May 21, 2 008

Joint Agency "Trap & Truck" program paves way for a solution to Cleveland Dam fish sustainability issue

VANCOUVER: A collaborative program involving Metro Vancouver, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Ministry of Environment, and Living Rivers – Georgia Basin / Vancouver Island is addressing salmon and steelhead issues associated with the Cleveland Dam .

Every year, coho salmon and steelhead adults or fry are transported above the dam to rear in the pristine waters of the upper Capilano River. After hatching or transport, the young fish remain in the river for up to two years before migrating to the ocean as smolts. Unfortunately, many of these smolts do not survive the trip over the spillway at Cleveland Dam.

The collaborative Capilano Trap and Truck program will reduce smolt mortality and provide valuable data about the coho and steelhead populations in the Capilano Watershed. The downstream migrants are caught, measured, weighed and tagged before being transported below the Cleveland Dam where they're released at the Capilano Fish Hatchery in the lower Capilano River.

Tagging the fish provides a better understanding of coho and steelhead health, movement, distribution, smolt yield, smolt survival and adult returns.

"The information we learn from this operation will improve our understanding of the coho and steelhead populations and will assist in designing a sustainable long-term solution for the smolt mortality issue at Cleveland Dam," said Joe Trasolini, Chair of Metro Vancouver's environment committee.

Metro Vancouver, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Capilano Hatchery and Living Rivers have all contributed staff and resources to this $400,000 program. The project employs consulting biologists and Squamish Nation technicians.

"This is one of several projects designed to ensure that the fish populations in M etro Vancouver's drinking watersheds will be sustainable and fully compatible with our objective of maintaining safe, high quality, drinking water," said Tim Stevenson, Metro Vancouver water committee Chair.

"The natural productivity of salmon and steelhead in Greater Vancouver watersheds has been impacted by water storage and diversion projects built many years ago," said Al Lill, P.Eng., Manager of the Living Rivers – Georgia Basin/Vancouver Island Program. "We are pleased to support this important work for providing safe passage for migrating smolts past Cleveland Dam, and look forward to further joint projects designed to increase the abundance of these valuable fish stocks in the future."

- 30 -

Contacts:
Bill Morrell
Corporate Relations, Metro Vancouver
(604) 451-6107

Craig Wightman, PRBio.
Senior Biologist, Georgia Basin/Vancouver Island BC Conservation Foundation
(250) 716-8776